

**From:** Richards, Mike  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 14, 2013 10:28 AM  
**To:** administration; Board of Directors Email Group; Mayor's Group  
**Cc:** Winchell, Tracy  
**Subject:** New Fire Apparatus

Dear Mayor and Board of Directors,

The first of our six (6) new pieces of fire apparatus has begun to arrive in Fort Smith. On Wednesday, February 13, two (2) 100' platform ladder trucks and one (1) 1500 GPM (Gallons per minute) pumper arrived in Fort Smith. The remaining two (2) 1500 GPM pumpers and one (1) 75' Quint (a Quint is a combination ladder and pumper truck) are scheduled to arrive before February 19. All six trucks were built in Appleton, Wisconsin by Pierce Manufacturing. Pierce is the largest fire apparatus manufacturer in the United States.

Over the next few weeks, each truck will be rigged out with our equipment and training will be conducted with the personnel that will be assigned to each unit. Each of the new fire apparatus will go into service as these tasks are complete. We anticipate that all six (6) trucks will be in service by mid-March. The total purchase price for all six (6) fire apparatus was \$4,125,920.30. The funding was made available through the revenue bonds approved in the March 2102 renewal of an existing 1 cent sales tax.

The new fire trucks will replace and augment our aging fleet. The three (3) 1500 GPM pumpers will replace a 29 year old pumper, a 21 year old pumper, and an 18 year old pumper. The two (2) new 100' platform ladder trucks will replace two (2) 18 year old ladder trucks. One of the older ladder trucks will transfer into reserve status for a backup and additional Insurance Service Office (ISO) credit. The remaining ladder truck, the 75' Quint, will be assigned to Fire Station 9 as part of our re-alignment plan to better locate our existing fire apparatus and maximize our ISO credit. The pumper that is currently assigned to Fire Station 9, a 2005 Pierce, will be re-assigned to Fire Station 11 when it opens thereby saving the City approximately \$500,000.00 by not buying a new fire truck for that station.

The primary goal in replacing our aging fire apparatus and adding the Quint to our fleet was public and firefighter safety. Our aging fleet was becoming more unreliable and subject to frequent breakdowns that put our firefighters and the public at much greater risk. Purchasing the new fire apparatus and relocating our units into better strategic locations will also help maintain our excellent ISO Class 2 rating thereby helping keep property insurance as low as possible in Fort Smith.

To introduce our new fire apparatus to the citizens of Fort Smith, we are scheduling two (2) public displays that will be open to the public. The first will occur from 5:00 p.m. to approximately 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 19, in conjunction with the Fort Smith Board of Directors meeting, at the Fort Smith Public Schools Service Center at 3205 Jenny Lind. The second public display will be held in the north parking lot at Garrison Avenue and North 2<sup>nd</sup>

Street on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. All members of the Fort Smith Fire Department are proud to serve the citizens of Fort Smith and are very much appreciative of the support and trust placed upon our dedicated firefighters.

Sincerely,

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